



NATIONAL DANCING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA INC.

Newsletter – December 2023



Dates to remember

2024 NDAAI Conference - Brisbane

Friday 19th January - NDAAI Examiners' meeting

Saturday 20th January – Preliminary to Grade 5 Highland Exam Syllabi, General Meeting and Annual General Meeting

Sunday 21st January – All Judges and Teachers of Highland Dance are invited to attend.

Guest Speaker – Chief Commissioner, Scouts QLD, Mr Geoff Doo

Friday, 26th January 2024

NDAAI Australia Day Celtic Competition

Ted Mack Civic Park, North Sydney

Friday 28th June 2024

The 3rd Dorothy Kerr Memorial Scholarship

Newington College, Stanmore, NSW – from 4pm

Saturday 29th June 2024

NDAAI Grand Australasian Championships and supporting events

Newington College, Stanmore, NSW – with Jacqueline Smith (Canada) Adjudicating.

Sunday 25th June 2024

Workshop with Jacqueline Smith (Canada), 162-166 Goulburn Street, Surry Hills NSW

New Highland Examination Syllabi

The Secretary Carolyn Davidson, Vice President Ellen Sommerville and Assistant Secretary Margaret Paterson have spent many hours updating the Preliminary to Grade 5 Highland Examination Syllabi, thank you ladies for your time and the dedication you have for NDAAI. A big thank you also to Aimee Robertson (Rockhampton) who updates the music USB's on request – we think you are amazing....

Sessions will be held at the Conference in January to present the changes made to the Highland Syllabi. We hope you can join us.

A reminder to all teachers and dancers – Dancer Registration renewal is now due for dancers wanting to compete in 2024. Registration cards should be sent to the Registrar in your State for renewal. Teachers must send their signed "Code of Ethics" form to their State/Region as dancers cannot be registered if the Teacher has not signed the form.

**To all our wonderful NDAAI Members, thank you for your support throughout 2023.
We hope 2024 will be a healthy, happy, and prosperous year for all.**

The NDAAI Executive wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Wonderful 2024



2023 Conference in Sydney – 21-22 January this year.

A very successful conference was held in Sydney early this year, of course we had the mandatory photo of all those in attendance on the NDAAI Members day taken by Ellen.

Winners of the 2022 Honours Points Awards are shown in the table below:

Pictured receiving their awards are Amalia Cotter (Cotter Academy of Highland Dancing), Margaret Johnston & Margaret Paterson (Thistle Highland Dancing Studio), Catherine Bourke (Hobart Highland Dancers), Barbara McCullough (McCullough Highland Dancing Studio), Jacqueline Wilson (City of Cairns Highland Dancers).



NORTH - OVERALL WINNERS 2022 QUEENSLAND BORDER AND BEYOND

HIGHLAND GRADES: HIGHEST POINTS.

1st	Jessica Murgha Aviemore Highland Dancers, Townsville
2nd	Jackie Wilson City of Cairns Highland Dancers, Cairns
3rd	Amalia Cotter Cotter Academy of Highland Dancing Brisbane. Qld

HIGHLAND MAJORS: HIGHEST POINTS.

Margaret Paterson Thistle Highland Dancing Studio, Brisbane
Barbara McCullough McCullough Highland Dancing Studio, Brisbane
Jessica Murgha Aviemore Highland Dancers, Townsville

NATIONAL: SN GRADES: 1 TO- 8

1st	Margaret Paterson Thistle Highland Dancing Studio, Brisbane
2nd	Jackie Wilson City of Cairns Highland Dancers, Cairns
3rd	Barbara McCullough McCullough Highland Dancing Studio Brisbane

JIG & HORNPIPE: HIGHEST POINTS

Margaret Paterson Thistle Highland Dancing Studio, Brisbane
Caitlin Reid Reid School of Highland Dance, Brisbane
Leone' Savage Ann Roberts School of Dance, Townsville

SOUTH – OVERALL WINNERS 2022 NEW SOUTH WALES / TASMANIA/ SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HIGHLAND GRADES: HIGHEST POINTS.

1st	Kim Roe Kim Roe School of Dance, Launceston. TAS
2nd	Catherine Bourke Hobart Highland Dancers, Hobart TAS
3rd	Margaret Reichelt Margaret Cleeves School of Dance Mt Gambier. South Australia

HIGHLAND MAJOR: HIGHEST POINTS.

Catherine Bourke Hobart Highland Dancers, Hobart. TAS
Kim Roe Kim Roe School of Dance, Launceston. TAS
Margaret Reichelt Margaret Cleeves School of Dance Mt Gambier. South Australia

NATIONAL: SN GRADES: 1 TO 8

1st	Katie Edwards Bell Studio of Highland Dance Mt Gambier. South Australia
2nd	Margaret Reichelt Margaret Cleeves School of Dance Mt Gambier. South Australia
3rd	Pauline Bishop Celtic Explosion Scottish Dancers Macquarie Fields. NSW

JIG & HORNPIPE: HIGHEST POINTS

No entries in 2022

NDAAI 2024 CONFERENCE:

The conference will be held at Arana Leagues Club, 247 Dawson Parade, Keperra QLD
Timetable

FRIDAY 19th January 2024:

3.30 – 6.00pm Examiners Meeting at Arana Leagues Club

SATURDAY 20th January 2024: **NDAAI Members only**

10.15am Arrivals – Tea / Coffee – Morning Tea Station

10.30am Welcome to 2024 Conference and Introduction - President

10.35am Getting to know you – B. McCullough

11.00am – 1.00pm **Exam Work** - Presentation and demonstration Preliminary to Grade 5 Highland Exam Syllabi - E. Sommerville / A. Cotter

1.00pm – 2.00pm **Lunch at Arana Leagues Club** (at own expense)

2.00pm **Exam Syllabi Q & A** Teachers & Examiners are invited to send questions in for explanation on any exam work.
E. Sommerville / C. Davidson

2.30pm **General Meeting** – Agenda to include:

- Discussion on possible logo change.
- 2024 Scholarship
- Affiliation with BAL

4.00pm **Afternoon Tea break**

4.15pm **Annual General Meeting** – Agenda to include:
Teacher Honour Awards and Complimentary Teacher Awards

- Annual Reports
- Election of Executive Positions
- Membership Fees

5.45pm **Conference close**

6.30pm **Conference Dinner** – Arana Leagues Club (at own expense)

SUNDAY 21st January 2024: **Sunday sessions are open to all Judges and Teachers of Highland Dance regardless of affiliated Association**

10.15am Arrivals – Tea / Coffee – Morning Tea Station

10.25am **Open Conference.** Welcome & Introduction

10.30am **“Working with Leaders and the Youth of today”**
Guest Speaker, Chief Commissioner, Scouts Qld, Mr Geoff Doo
and a panel of NDAAI teachers discussing the following:

- why did they become a teacher?
- what keeps them teaching?
- how do they stay motivated as a teacher?
- Question time

12.30 – 1.30pm **Lunch at Arana Leagues Club** (at own expense)

1.30pm Technical Meeting - Metronome Beats and Bars (CPD) M. Johnston

2.00pm – 4.00pm Technical Meeting - Highlighting and Linking of steps within Championship and SNDP steps for 2024 (CPD) C. Shield, S. Dawson, M. Fyffe

4.00pm Conference close

2023 NDAAI Dorothy Kerr Memorial Scholarship – The 2nd Dorothy Kerr Memorial Scholarship was held on Friday 23rd June at Newington College. By all reports the candidates enjoyed the scholarships, and the audience enjoyed watching. Trophies were introduced this year for the Teachers of the winners of the Scholarship.



The Scholarship winners were:

Junior overall winner- Eliza Kitto- Teacher Kim Roe
Senior overall winner- Lucy Edwards- Teacher Katie Edwards

2023 Grand Australasian (Open) Championship Results



7 - 9 Years

1st Elsie Lyons TAS Teacher Kim Roe
2nd Aleya Williams TAS
3rd Eilidh Roarty WA
4th Rhiannon Wainwright VIC
5th Harper Mason QLD
6th Talia Zur NSW

10 - 11 Years

1st Andie Lane QLD Teacher Jess Murgha
2nd Zara Theobald VIC
3rd Skye Roarty WA
4th Mackenzie Gill VIC
5th Matilda O'Grady QLD
6th Amelia Webb VIC

12 - 13 Years

1st Sophia Kelly QLD Teacher Margaret Paterson
2nd Ellie Murgha QLD
3rd Millie Cameron WA
4th Grace Cameron VIC
5th Macy MacDonald VIC
6th Erin Loubser QLD

14 - 15 Years

1st Alice Gill VIC Teacher Sarah Adams
2nd Lacie Pearton TAS
3rd Heidi Curtis TAS
4th Eliza Kitto TAS
5th Lissadel Burgess QLD
6th Lillie Neuendorf QLD

16 - 18 Years

1st Adelaide Sage VIC Teacher Cathy Rees
2nd Abbie Palfrey QLD
3rd Tristan Wainwright VIC
4th Abbey Freebairn SA
5th Cailey Finlayson VIC
6th Lucy Edwards SA

19 Years and Over

1st Cyan Macleod VIC Teacher Cathy Rees
2nd Caitlin Reid QLD
3rd Steffaney Treadwell NSW
4th Ebony McDonald QLD
5th Hayley Boyd QLD
6th Kelsie Clarke VIC

Grand Australasian Raffle winners

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to those who supported our raffle.

1 st Prize - Grace Clive, QLD	\$200 Myer Visa Gift Card
2 nd Prize - Wolf Blaas, NSW	\$100 Bunnings Gift Card
3 rd Prize - Grace Clive, QLD	\$50 Myer Visa Gift Card
4 th Prize - Evie Edwards, SA	\$20 Lottery Gift Pack

2024 Grand Australasian (Open) Championship News – Saturday 29th June 2024

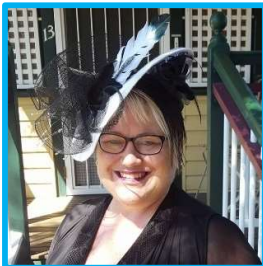
The **2024 Cathy and John Hynd Scholarship** will be awarded at the 2024 Grand Australian Championship – it is an International Scholarship open to all Championship Dancers worldwide. All six Championship winner's names will go into a draw for the scholarship prize of US \$2,000.00.

The winner of the Cathy and John Hynd Memorial Scholarship must use the money to travel and compete at an open Championship in a country of their choice including their own within two years and, share a written story of their experience with Cathy and John's daughter Janeen and the Highland Dance community.

2024 Papalia Awards – Any Premier with Restriction dancer who enters and competes in a Grand Australasian Championship in 2024 will go into a draw for a prize of \$100 – There will be six draws as one prize will be awarded in each of the six individual Championships.

Jacqueline Smith from Canada has been appointed as an Adjudicator for the Grand Australasian Championships in 2024. Jacqueline is a former Juvenile, Junior and Adult World Champion and also won the Grand Australasian in 1996. There will be a workshop with Jacqueline on Sunday 30 June 2024.

Vale Leone' Savage



The Executive and members of the National Dancing Association of Australasia were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our dear colleague, Teacher, Examination Coordinator and friend, Leone' Savage.

Leone' was a long-standing member of NDAAI and contributed significantly to the development of Highland Dancing. Leone's brilliant smile and bubbly personality together with her invaluable skills and talent are deeply missed.

Far North Queensland Regional Committee of Highland Dancing held a Memorial dinner in Townsville on 8th July, it was attended by Examiner Petrea Gibbins-Doherty who read a tribute to Leone' from NDAAI.



Congratulations to Flora (Grubb) Carter - the 2023 recipient of the Atholl Clasp, awarded by RSOBHD



The Atholl Clasp was born out of the Millennium Champions Challenge. Overall dancing winners were presented with a brooch and also at the event Miss Jessie Stewart Haggarty MBE, a founder member of the Board, became the first recipient of the Atholl Clasp. The Atholl Dancing Association also had clasps for the two remaining founder members of the Board, Miss Cissie Tucker, and Miss Mary Lindsay.

The Atholl Dancing Association wanted the memory of this friendly event to live on through the presentation of "The Atholl Clasp". The award is given to people within the dancing community who have served their sport extremely well. The recipients have given their lives to Highland Dancing. Nominations are given to the Board each year and the Office Bearers select the recipient.

**Don't forget to get your entries in for the
21st CELTIC AUSTRALIA DAY HIGHLAND DANCING COMPETITION**



DATE: Friday, 26 January 2024
VENUE: Ted Mack Civic Park, Miller Street, North Sydney
ADJUDICATOR: Sarah Palfrey, Queensland
COMMENCING: 10am All Sections
REGISTRATION NO: NSW 01/2024
ENTRY FEES: Sections \$7.00 per dance, Trophy Dance \$12.00, Administration Fee \$7.00
ENTRIES: All entries via HD Comps www.hdcomps.com

ENQUIRIES: Maureen Fyffe – 0400 881 038 fyffes@bigpond.net.au

DANCES:

BEGINNERS, NOVICE: Highland Fling (Trophy Dance), Sword Dance, Seann Triubhas, Lilt, Flora

INTERMEDIATE: Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Seann Triubhas, Highland Laddie, Barracks Johnnie (Trophy Dance)

PREMIER OR PREMIER WITH RESTRICTION: Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Seann Triubhas, Half Tulloch, Blue Bonnets, Village Maid

From Margaret Cleves Highland Dance, Mt Gambier (Margaret Reichelt OAM)

Two of Margaret's dancers, Hailee, and Abbey, had a very successful trip to Scotland this year, thanks Margaret for sharing their results with us and Congratulations to you Margaret and to Abbey and Hailee.

Isle of Skye Highland Games:

Hailee: 3rd – Highland Fling, 2nd – Seann Triubhas, Sword Dance and Reel

British Overseas Championship:

Hailee: 16 Years and Over - Championship points in Sword Dance and Reel

Abbey: 5th Highland Fling, 6th Sword Dance, Championship points in the Seann Triubhas.

Bute Championship:

Hailee: 16-17 years, finished 6th overall with a 3rd – Highland Fling, 6th in Sean Triubhas and Reel, Championship points in the Sword dance.

Abbey: 18 years and over, 5th Overall with 5th – Highland Fling and Sean Triubhas, equal 4th Sword dance and 6th Reel .

British Open Championship:

Abbey: 18 years and over, Championship points in Sword Dance, 5th in the Barracks and Sailors Hornpipe, 5th Overall for the Nationals

Stirling Highland Games:

Abbey: 17 years and over, 5th in Highland Fling and Seann Triubhas, 4th in Barracks and 3rd in Laddie.

Hailee: 15 and 16 years, 7th in Laddie, 2nd in Barracks, 9th in Jig

Commonwealth Championship:

Abbey: 18 to 19 years, Championship points in Highland Fling and Seann Triubhas, 6th in Sword Dance and Reel, finishing 6th overall



From Aviemore Highland Dancers Townsville (Jess Murgha) our trip to Scotland



Sophie, Jasmine, Nicola, Madilyn, Holly, Andie, Ellie, Caitlyn, Hailey, and Makayla attended 14 Highland Games and Championships between them during their 4 weeks in Scotland. For 8 of the girls, it was their first trip to Scotland, and it did not disappoint. The dancers received amazing results but most importantly, embraced the Scottish culture and made new friends and lots of special memories



2023 Brisbane NDAAI Examinations: The Brisbane exams are done and dusted for 2023.

The examiner for 2 days of exams in June was Christine Shield. The participating studios were Thistle Highland Dancing Studio, Cotter Academy of Highland Dance, McCullough Highland Dancing Studio, Reid School of Highland Dance (Emerald) and Petrea Gibbins School of Dancing with a total of 75 candidates.

Saturday 21st October, 30 candidates were examined from the above Brisbane studios and Lockyer Valley School of Dance. The appointed examiner was Maureen Fyffe.

Ellen Sommerville, with permission from the candidates and examiner took videos for the education of Trainee examiners on both dates. Many thanks to our loyal members who assisted with the admin; Lyn Keating, Carolyn Davidson and Christine Shield.



3 Pre-Graders ready to enter



Milla and Lillie



Isabel & Abbie



Thistle HD Studio Christmas Breakup Party

TRAVELLING EXAMINER 2023 by Ellen Sommerville

Roma 4 February 2023.

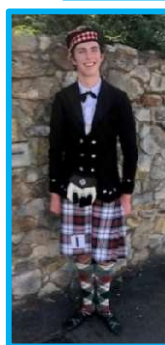
This was the start of a big year of travelling for this Examiner. At this session of the Roma exams, I had the absolute pleasure of having three young ladies do their Teachers exam. It was such a standout effort by their Teacher Glenys Hughes to have all three candidates so well prepared. Congratulations ladies.



Hobart 26 March 2023



After two full weeks of holiday travelling around Tasmania, I managed to do an exam session for the Hobart Highland Dancers. It was a great opportunity to see the new Junior Jig and Hornpipe examination being presented for the first time. Thank you, Catherine Bourke for preparing your dancers to such a high level and for the time I got to spend with them.



Roma 17 May 2023

Another trip out to Roma for the second session of exams. This session had almost 40 examinations ranging from the Highland grades, Scottish Nationals and the new Jig and Hornpipe Exams. This was another opportunity to see both the Junior and Intermediate Jig and Hornpipe presented. After the exams I had dinner with some of the new Teachers and to see Marissa and baby Regan.



Cairns 19 August 2023

Rather than fly to Cairns, Ian and I decided to take the train to Cairns. It was a great way to see the countryside as we travelled up the coast of Queensland. Also managed to spend some time with Jackie and Kevin Wilson prior to the exams. Congratulations to both Ellie on successfully passing her Teacher's examination and her teacher Jackie for the hard work in preparing for this examination. I had the opportunity to meet the new teacher of the City of Cairns Highland studio, Ms Rachael Fallston. Rachael has taken over the studio from Jackie, and this was her first time entering candidates for the exams from Grade One to Grade Five. Congratulations Rachael on preparing your dancers with such competence and confidence.



Mossman 20 August 2023

After finishing the Cairns exams, it was a drive to Port Douglas in preparation for the Mossman exams the following day for the SharCeltica Highland Dancers. Teacher Sharlene Cardilini has this year started teaching under her own studio name. Sharlene had dancers entered from Pre Grade to Grade 4. A short workshop was held after the exams, and it was great to see how hard these young dancers worked. A huge morning tea was prepared ...just for me....and I discovered I love papaya!

We loved spending a few days after the exams with Sharlene and seeing the wonders around Port Douglas.



2023 Lithgow Exams

these dancers are all excited to have their dancing exams over for another year



This photo of two very happy little dancers, was taken at the Lithgow, NSW Competition in October. Pictured are Abraham & Autumn Newman from Fiona Clarke's Studio in Lithgow. Autumn won 1st in the Trophy Fling and Abraham came 2nd. Congratulations to you both

This one was taken at the Sydney Highland Gathering held at Scots College in Bellevue Hill, NSW on 12th November.

Sheilah Meikle is pictured with 2 of her students, Maya, and Clara



From Enya Price – Studen Member - Scotland 2023 – thank you for sharing your trip with us Enya.

In August 2023, I travelled to Scotland to compete at Cowal World Highland Dancing Championship in Dunoon. During the 6 weeks I was in Scotland, and prior to dancing at Cowal, I competed at the following competitions: British Overseas and Bute Championships, Perth, Glenisla, Galashiels, Crieff and

Oban Highland Games, and Grampian Festival. I received a variety of placings during my time



in Scotland and was also fortunate enough to have highland dance lessons with Shendl Russell.

NDAAI Teachers Examination Candidates - Congratulations

A warm welcome to our newest teachers. It is great to have some "young ones" coming through.

- Kelsie Clarke (Lithgow Thistle Highland Dancers) passed in Dec 2022
- Ellen Kehl (Roma Highland Dancers)
- Nina Johnstone (Roma Highland Dancers)
- Tully Stone (Roma Highland Dancers)
- Ellie Henley (City of Cairns Highland Dancers)
- Abbey Freebairn (Margaret Cleves School of Dance)
- Deborah Hanson (Linda Smith Highland Dancing Studio)



Teachers Exam Candidate Ellie Henley with Teacher Jackie and Examiner Ellen Sommerville



Teachers - Alison Gaustad, Jackie Wilson, Ellen Sommerville (Examiner), Rachael Fullston, Sharlene Cardelini – photo taken at the Cairns and Mossman exams.



Candidates Ellen, Nina and Tully from Roma Highland Dancers with Examiner Ellen Sommerville



Examiner Carolyn Davidson is congratulating Abbey Freebairn on passing her Teachers exam. Abbey's teacher is Margaret Reichelt.

Examiner Carolyn Davidson is pictured here with Deborah Hanson after passing her Teachers exam. Deborah's teacher is Linda Smith



2023 Rockhampton Exams – October, with Examiner Christine Shield



Arabella successfully obtained her Preliminary Certificate, pictured with Examiner Christine Shield

Sophia was a candidate for the Scottish National (SN1) exam



Sophie with her sister Arabella



A big thank you to Isabella pictured with Christine and Arabella, Isabella played the music for the exams.



Trinity was a candidate for the Intermediate Exam.

Triathlon

Thank you to our volunteers for helping at the Western Sydney Triathlon registration day at Maritime Museum, Sydney in September. The money raised will go towards the 2024 Grand Australasian Championships... we even had Carolyn Davidson from Brisbane helping out.



A big thank you to all the NSW Volunteers who help out at the Bunnings BBQ's and to Maureen, who rallies the troops at least 3 times each year, these are our main fund raises for the Grand Australasian.



Thank you to all the volunteers who help out on exam days, especially the music players, without your help our exams wouldn't run quite so smoothly.

Thank you to all the members who sent articles and images in for the Newsletter, I hope I haven't left any out.

Enjoy your Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you at the Conference in January.

The full conference details and registration form have been emailed to you, if you need any further information call or email our secretary Carolyn Davidson on 0407 748 625 ndaasecretary@outlook.com